(Smt. E. E. Vaz)

ಶ್ರೀ ನಾಗಣ್ಣನವರು ಬೆಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಏಕೆ ಇಳಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡಬಾರದು ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ೨ ಸಾವಿರ ಟನ್ ರಿಲೀಸ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನೂ ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಕೊಡುವ ಭರವಸೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದು ಬಂದ ನಂತರ We will see that more and more is released to the Fair price Shops. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಡೆಗೂ ಎಷ್ಟು ಬೇಕೋ ಅಷ್ಟು ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಡೆಪ್ಯುಟಿ ಕಮೀಷನ ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

Sugar is being sold through the Fair Price shops at Rs. 2-05 per kg. In order to keep the sugar prices under check, we are releasing the sugar for domestic purposes through the Fair Price Shops.

SRI C. M. ARUMUGAM.—Why don't you control it ?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—Out of the total production, a certain percentage is left to the mill Owners. About 60 per cent is taken to the Government control and sent through the fair price shops. The remaining 40 per cent is given to the mill owners and they are free to sell it in the open market. That is the Government of India Policy.

SMT. E. E. VAZ.—Hon. Member,Sri Patil wanted to know whether Jowar is the staple food of Northern Districts. The jowar collected in the northern districts has been released to those districts. The other districts do not require jowar. In Hubli, we are having 2672 tonnes of jowar in the godowns. We are distributing the jowar to the northern districts as noted below.

Gulbarga	...	698 tonnes,
Raichur	...	95 tonnes,
Bellary	...	358 tonnes.

Besides, we are releasing large quantities of wheat to those districts. I am sure with this assurance, our Hon. Members will be convinced that we are trying our best to bring down the prices. We will make every effort to bring down the prices.

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

Statement by the Chief Minister :

Re : Scarcity Conditions in Several Parts of the State.

SRI D DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister).—I wanted to take this opportunity to make a statement regarding the situation in the state arising out of the failure of rains in many parts of the State. Of course, more than once, the question has been raised on the floor of this House and also on the floor of the Upper House and the Minister concerned—the Revenue Minister, has made statements giving facts and figures and in addition to the statements I have also said certain things. I think I can make use of this opportunity again

before the Assembly adjourns so that it would be possible for all the Hon. Members to know the steps Government have taken and when they go to their respective areas, they shou'd be in a position to ask the local officers to take up relief works wherever works to be taken up and wherever the conditions are bad for want of rains. Therefore I have sought your permission to say Certain things about the situation and I thank the Chair for the indulgence shown to me to make the statement.

As you are aware, a statement in the Legislative Assembly was made by the Revenue Minister on 1st August 1972 indicating the actual position as on 29th July 1972. Roughly he has also mentioned the several districts which have been offected *viz.*, Bijapur, Belgaum, Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur, Bellary, Dharwar, Kolar, Bangalore and now perhaps at this distance of time there might be many more districts which might have been affected by scarity conditions. For instance, in Chitradurga District, there is a report that one or two talukas are badly affected ; the conditions in Tumkur District are also ditto and in Mysore District also, the position is likewise. As days pass by and as we do not get rains, the conditions go on deterioratiog even in places where we expect them to be normal. So, If I have not mentioned the details of the Talukas, it does not mean that Government is not aware of or are not going to take any action excepting in plaees about which mention was made. So, I want to disabuse the mind of Hon Members here who might be under an apprehension that though their Talukas affected they are not included and Government do not propose to take any action.

I will first enumerate the steps that have been taken and to that effect Government orders have already been passed. I have instructed the concerned Department to give a copy of all the Government orders that have been passed within these 8 days with a view to take immeditate positive steps to fight this drought conditions. I am given to understand that the copies of thers orders have been clubbed together and are made available to the Hon. Members of this House. If the Members have not received them already, they will be receiving them shortly.

A sum of Rs. one crore has been released for taking up relief works in the affected areas. That is the latest position. In addition to this, a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs under Takavi loans for grant of loans to the raiyats for the purpose of puchase of fodder in affected areas is also released. Now, I wish to mention that between these two items of work *viz.*. the relief works comes under "64 Famine Relief Wooks" in the affected areas plus the takavi loan of Rs. 50 lakhs, it comes to about Rs. 1½ crores.

(Sri D. Devaraj Urs)

Now, we have taken a decision to increase this 1½ crores to three crore. It means that instead of 1½ crores for these two items of relief work, it will be three crores. Then the Land Development Bank is implementing a programme of granting loans for sinking 4,000 wells in the affected areas. For each well, the programme is to give 5,000 rupee's loan for sinking the well and in addition, a sum of Rs. 3,500 will be given, as loan, to the man who becomes the recipient of the 5,000 rupees' loan to purchase pumpsets. That means, between sinking a well and purchasing pumpsets an individual will be getting 8,500 rupees. This is arranged through the State Land Development Bank.

Then, instructions have been issued to take up deepening of wells, wherever scarcity of water is being felt. The expenditure on deepening of wells has been raised. It was one thousand rupees formerly. Under this programme, to give immediate relief to the suffering people, for one drinking water well, there was a Government order to allow 1,000 rupees; this is in respect of one work of deepening any existing well or to dig any new well in the tank bed and other places. That was later on raised to 2,000 rupees; now, have raised this upper limit of expenditure on one item of work *viz.*, either for deepending a well or to dig any new well in any area, where they think they can get water, from 2,000 repees to 3,000 rupees. In every District, the Deputy Commissioners have been given specific instructions not to refuse any work, so far as these depening of wells or of opening new wells for the purpose of providing drinking water th the people, is concerned. There is no limit prescribed for this. If there are thousand wells required, they must go on with that programme

SRI M. K. KULKARNI.—Weat about the drinkitg water tanks in Navalgund Taluk and the measures to be taken in respect of desilting the tanks ?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—That can be taken up under Minor Irrigation Programme. If the 'Kattas', 'Hondas' 'Gundis' have to be repaired that also will be taken up. These are called 'Katte, Honda and Gundi' and they are being utilised both by cattle and men.

SRI R. V. RANGANA GOWDA.—ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯಲಿಕ್ಕಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೋ ಅಂಥ ಕಡೆ ಕೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೊವೈಡ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀರಾ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸ್ .—ಕೆರೆ ಅಥವಾ ಹಳ್ಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಂಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೋಡಿಸಿ ಎಂದು ಡೆಪ್ಯುಟಿ ಕಮಿಷನರ್‌ರವರಿಗೆ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೇವೆ. Then the Deputy Commissioners of the Districts are being instructed to arrange for supply of fodder. But here I have my own views about it, in the sense that it may not be possible to supply every area This supply involves handing by so

many people in between purchase and issue points. So, I have stated that the best thing it to give loans to such of those persons who want to buy fodder—as takavi—and arrange for transport.

Soil Conservation Works.—This is one of the best ways of giving relief; in almost every village, we can take up soil conservation work. About 150 Diploma holders in Civil Engineerin are being taken as Technical Assistants to enable soil conservation work being taken up in new centres in the affected areas. Soil Conservation work was suffering for want of trained personnel. Now, the work is going on, but we want to speed up the Soil Conservation work. For this we want more and more hands, at local level. We have, therefore, taken a decision to appoint temporarily about 150 Diploma holders and give them 15 days' training and then put them on the job.

The Department of Food Supplies have made arrangements to open Fair Price Shops to supply foodgrain at cheaper prices. Now, in this connection, I would like to mention the apprehension that was expressed by some Hon. Members here that the prices of commodities are going up. It is true. As the Food Minister pointed out, wheat is available in any quantity. If the Bangalore citizens are not in a position to get such rice as was being given previously, I am afraid we are not in a position to help them now, by giving rice. The quantum of rice that wae being issued has been reduced. The reasons for this are as follows. Wiih the available quantity with us as well as the quantity that is likely to be recived by us from the Food Corporation, we have to hold on the stocks for some more months. Suppose we issue at the rate of 40 Kgs., as was being done previously, then we will run short of the stock and Mr. Naganna will appreciate the point that this drought condition is not only in Mysore State, but it has spread throughout the length and breadth of India. There are twelve to thirteen States which come under 'drought affected areas'. So, the position is not so easy with regard to rice. Therefore, we have to oecessarily reduce the quantum of rice that was being issued but in its place, we are prepared to give the same quantity of wheat. And, our people here must be prepared to alternatively take wheat and make use of it. The same wheat will be made available at Taluka levels as well. There was some complaint—as was pointed out by Mr. Patil—that there is delay in the supplies. There might be some delay. You will appreciate that that this delay is not because Government is not moving in the matter; it is an inbuilt delay in the sense that the transport has got to take sometime. We will see that the transport movement is quickened and every Taluk gets certain quantity of foodgrains either in the form of wheat or jowar if it is available. Even in respect of jowar, the position is not so happy. We have got to make available jowar. We are not in a position to get jowar elsewhere even from the Food Corporotion, because they do not have much stock of jowar.

(ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಅರಸ್)

Now, in addition to merely supply of wheat and other things, we have said that wherever there are not proper facilities to issue these food grains, the Deputy Commissioner should take steps to open more fair price shops. Now there are about,—I think it was given to the House, that nearly 10,000 fair price shops all over the State. Even if it is a matter of opening more fair price shops, we will see that they are opened in impened in important village centres, and hobli headquarters are aleady having them. We have not restricted the discretion of the Deputy Commissioners in this matter. If the Deputy Commissioner thinks that in particular area another 20—30 points are still to be covered by opening fair price shops, he can go ahead without waiting for any orders from the higher autorities. It is in his full discretion.

Another point is, Madam Speaker, and this is a point which every body knows—in India, in our State, in districts and in taluks at any level, some increase in prices—escalation of price, as it is called will be there, not merely becase there is shortage of essential commodities, though partly it is due to that, but mostly it is because of the hoarders and black marketers. This is just an occasion when a section of the society who are classified as traders or business men, it is they who want to exploit the situation to their advantage May be, out of 100, it will not be wrong if I say, may be a small percentage of honest people may be there. That is a very small percentage, so much so, their number does not make any appreciable dent on the situation obtaining. On the other hand ninety per cent of these people have been waiting for this opportunity to make as much money as possible. It is they who take full advantage of this situation and go on raising prices. Of course, I have been in Government for some time. I have been outside the Government continuously for a long time, except for a small break of about 2 years in the ruling party. Ever since we are in this position, as Government, we have been saying, that we are going to take drastic steps against the black-marketers, one each time, we say that, the black-marketers thrive That is the anomaly ! I am trying to be frank about this I know why M Armugam was apprehensive about the Government taking drastic steps Madam Speaker, I think I will not be wrong in saying and the House also will agree with me that most of the black marketers have control, some times over the Government and always over the society.

SRI C. M. ARMUGAM.—You are perfectly correct

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS —and there are so many spheres of influence—they influence the officers, they influence some times even Ministers. They influence even members. I did not like to say that, because I thought I would be misunderstood by the House. This is

a malady which is there not only now, but from the very beginning. Now that the whole society, the very fabric as such of the system of trading as it exists today, is such tnat I might have to say that it is a very difficult proposition. Even if I were to say tnat I am going to take drastic steps, I may find it extremely difficult for Government alone to handle this situation. I am not going to make that statement that Government will take every step to put down these people, though that is our intention. I am at least one of those who are fullb aware of all aware of all weak points of the system, and having been aware of the weaknesses I hesitate to make that statement; because one I make that statement, I must have the confidence that we are going to implement it fully. You might ask me: has not the Government that confidence or strength? Though the Government has Government has that strength, I want the fullest co-operation from every Hon'ble Member of this House I want their co-operation not merely to say "Government might take any action it likes and we as members are not going to come in the way and we are not going to influence on behalf of X or Y.

What I wanted to impress on the minds of Hon'ble Members of the House was this: that they must also co-operate with me to identify these people. That is an important factor. You make an experiment: you identify them and if the Government fails to take action, then you have every right to condemn the Government on the floor of this House. So I would appeal to the Hon'ble Members here to kindly put forth their efforts in their respective regions to help the Government in identifying these people and then I promise we will take all possible steps against the hoarders and black-marketers. This is one of the ways either to bring down price line or to hold the price line as we call it in economic terms.

Then, the Food Corporation of India has been able to build up buffer stocks of wheat at Hubli, Gulberga and Raichur so that it may be distributed to drought affected areas. So far we had no buffer stocks in these regions. Now for easier and quicker movement to make available these foodgrains at the taluka level, we have decided to keep stocks in these areas and I think these stocks must have moved by now. I will ask the concerned authorities to verify if the stocks have moved. Otherwise, we will take steps to move it quickly. Railways will be approached to make available the necessary waggons to move wheat to scarcity areas.

The Public Works Department has passed orders to take up all budgetted works in the Bijapur District. The P.W.D. will issue similar orders in respect of other areas, so that the Hon'ble Members coming from the different regions may not feel that their areas are neglected or omitted Orders will be issued to cover other areas from the P.W.D. asking them to take up all budgetted works.

(Sri D. Devaraj Urs)

I forgot to mention one point. These Fair Price Shops will be opened wherever relief works are taken so that it can be easy for labourers and people to buy foodgrains at the nearest place.

Now, I would like to give broadly the amount under different heads for different works to be spent or proposed to be spent by the Government. It is like this :

Under "64—Famine," for relief works orders have been passed to keep at the disposal of the Divisional Commissioner of Bangalore Rs. 20 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs for fodder loan As I stated earlier, all these figures which I am mentioning—we should read them as being doubled because Rs. 1½ crores is going to be donbled to Rs. 3 crores. If it is Rs. 20 lakhs, it will be Rs. 40 lakhs. For Belgaum Division, we have placed Rs. 40 lakbs : for Gulbarga Rs. 25 lakhs, and for Mysore Division Rs. 15 lakhs. So, for Belgaum Division it will become Rs. 80 lakhs for Gulbarga Rs. 50 lakhs and for Mysore Division Rs. 30 lakhs. Under fodder loan, for Bangalore it was Rs. 10 lakhs, it is going to be Rs. 20 lakhs, for Belgaum Rs. 20 lakhs, and it will become Rs. 40 lakhs, and for Gulbarga Rs. 12½ lakhs, which is going to become Rs. 25 lakhs, for Mysore Division Rs. 7½ lakhs is going to become Rs. 15 lakhs. This sum of Rs. 3 crores is separate and apart from the works that we are going to takeup under the normal budgeted items no mally. We have soil conservation works, minor irrigation works, afforestation work and lastly road construction work. For all these four items of work, in the affected areas, we are likely to spend about Rs. 7 crores and odd. The whole amount comes to Rs. 15 crores. Out of this sum of Rs. 15 crores we are dividing to half the State and it comes to Rs. 7½ crores. This is in addition to the sum of Rs. 3 crores I mentioned just now. I wish to repeat that out of this sum of Rs. 15 crores, you may roughly take it that a sum of 7½ crores will be available for these affected areas.

Then we have what is called this Crash Programme. You are aware that already these Crash Programmes are carried out by two agencies : Partly (1) by Taluk Board and (2) by the Land Army. We are going to take up schemes from both these agencies costing nearly Rs. 3 crores for one year. That means : Rs. 3 crores work will be taken up all over the State. This work is not taken in two or three taluks. This Crash Programme work will be taken up in all the Taluks because if you confine this only to the affected areas, you may take it as only half-work. It may also so happen that you have to take up more works in one taluk, we do not mind it. On an average, it comes to Rs. 1½ lakhs per taluk. Even if it is Rs. 3 lakhs, it does not matter, it may be taken up I am giving a rough idea In some areas if people are willing, we shall increase it by another lakh.

There are drinking water well schemes in the Budget for those villages which have ny wells. We are going to provide Rs. 1½ crores in the Budget. If it means providing another Rs. 1½ crores for this year we are going to provide another Rs 1½ crores for drinking water wells. I think the House will agree that we must give top priority for supplying water to the people.

Madam speaker, in this way Government have proposed to spend money to meet the present situation of scarcity.

Now we have asked the Government of India to give us an overall assistance of nearly Rs. 13 crores. For Minor Irrigation Rs. 3 crores, for Relief Works Rs. 5 crores, for Sinking drinking water wells using rigs 1 crore, for takavi loans Rs. 2 crores, share capital to Mysore State Land Development Bank for construction of irrigation wells Rs. 1 crore, subsidy for purchase of fodder and food Rs. 50 lakhs, deepening of wells Rs. 50 lakhs. We have requested the Central Government to release 50 per cent of this amount asked for to meet the present situation pending assessment of the whole situation by sending the Government of India team to our State, and then release the rest after the assessment is made.

We have also ordered the concerned to take up this programme of feeding the vulnerable section; that is, the pre-school children, nursing and expectant mothers in the affected areas. That programme should have stopped at the end of June. But we have asked the local Officers to continue this Programme of feeding all these vulnerable sections to the end of this year.

So, I think I have given you roughly a picture of the situation as well as the steps that Government have taken and they propose to take.

In addition, lastly I hope all our Members are getting back to their respective areas. I appeal to them to get back because some may stay on. I appeal to them to go back to their respective constituencies and Taluks because this an extraordinary situation. After returning they have a right to ask the local officers to move about and take up this work on war-footing and with post-haste.

In case there is any failure on the part of these officers—I would request the Hon. Members to immediately inform the Government about it and I assure that prompt action will be taken to see that the officers function effectively and quickly and failure on their part will be viewed very seriously by Government and we will have to take very drastic disciplinary action against them. Now, with this announcement on the floor of the House, I don't think any officer will say that he has not received the Government Order or that he is yet to receive the communication or that money is not enough: Madam Speaker, I wish to make this categorical statement that money is no criterion in this situation. Any amount which is required to meet the situation

(Sri D. Devaraj Urs)

shall be spent by the Government. The officers both at the district level as well as the taluk level should move day in and day out. I am going to issue further instructions. The officers should not simply sleep over the situtation or while-away their time or take things in a leisurely manner. I know that in every taluk there is an army of officers; they come to more than a hundred under all departments. By each officer taking charge of one village they can cover the entire taluk. That is the situation today Such being the case, I can never countenance any failure on the part of the officers at the taluk and district levels, and if they give room for any complaint from the Hon. Members who are the representatives of the people, then they will be severely dealt with. With this statement of mine I hope the Hon. Members will be satisfied with the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation.

With regard to the financial position, as I have already stated, nobody need have any apprehension. It is not a question of dividing everything on an equal basis; it has to be on an equitable basis. In case in any Division more money is required we will not hesitate to give. The approach should nnt be that we have given so much and we would not give more. Money will be forthcoming and my desire is that the Hon. Members should see that the programme becomes a success from the point of view of meeting the needs of the needy people who are suffering as a result of these drought conditions. Thank you.

Statement of the Minister to for Law and Parliamentary Affairs :

Re : Status of the Leader of the Opposition.

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ನಾಯ್ಕರ್ .—ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೇ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ದೇವೇಗೌಡರು ಇಂದು ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದಂಥ ವಿಷಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿ, ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ' ವಿರೋಧಪಕ್ಷದ ನಾಯಕರುಗಳು ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ವೇತನ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಸ್ಥಾನಮಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಕೋರಿದರೆಂದೂ" ಹೇಳಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾಗಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಬಹುಶಃ ನಾನು ಹೇಳಿರಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ತರ್ಕದ ಮೇಲೆ, ನನ್ನ ಗಮನವನ್ನು ಸೆಳೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ನಾನು ಭಾವಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಈ ಒಂದು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಸೂದೆ ನನಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ನನ್ನ ತಿಳಿವಳಿಕೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ, ನಾನೇ ಆ ರೀತಿ ಹೇಳಿರಬಹುದೆಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಊಹೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನನ್ನ ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ನಾನು ಭಾವಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ನಾನು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಏನು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಈ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವರದಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಪ್ಯಾರಾವನ್ನು ಓದಿದರೆ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ; ಅದು ಈ ರೀತಿ ಇದೆ ;—

"ಸಭೆಯ ಹೊರಗೆ ಆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಚಿವರನ್ನು ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾರರು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಲಾಗಿ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಥದ್ದೇನೂ ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದರಲ್ಲದೆ ತಾವು ಅಷ್ಟು ಬೇಗ ವಿಧೇಯಕವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವರೆಂದು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿರಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದರು".

ನಾನು ಇಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಆದೇ ಮುಂದಿನ ಪ್ಯಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾ 'ವಿಶ್ವಾಸನೀಯವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ನಾನು ಆ ರೀತಿ ಹೇಳಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ, ಆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ಕೊಡುವುದು ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ.